

whale belly in tweed

he's a mammal  
which means he must be warm blooded  
at one time  
he owned 3 Irish bars  
he still publishes  
a very well funded poetry mag  
in addition to sitting on the board  
of the all highest  
who determine the flow of grant money  
these days he's into making films  
he took my cab 3 times within a week  
at his suggestion  
I sent him work  
at his home address  
he also hinted  
that it doesn't hurt to know someone  
when applying for a grant  
I sent him work  
although he didn't know me from spit  
a year later  
he was on his way to Beacon Hill  
to meet with David Mamet  
I told him my work hadn't been returned  
he still couldn't admit  
that he didn't know who the hell I was  
in any case  
it wouldn't have mattered  
since a sase was enclosed  
I thank you sir  
for all the hot air

rally for rent control

it was cold & damp  
not a good day  
to be homeless  
after 20 years  
rent control in Cambridge  
is still being attacked  
on the local news & elsewhere  
39% are low income in this city  
thousands of units have been lost  
to Harvard  
to condo conversions  
to landlords with loopholes  
the construction never stops here  
some of us turned out today



to share horror stories  
lend support  
a local poet with scarf & beret  
read a few of her things  
they weren't much  
compared to her superior attitude  
she split without listening  
to the other speakers  
it's like when Bob Hope  
deigns to appear on the Tonight Show  
for just a few minutes  
one of her things can be found  
in WR #108  
don't miss it

3 words of gentle advice

I've been watching them for years  
with their canes & crutches & walkers  
struggling  
to get in & out  
trying to find the door handle  
unable to pull it open  
or to slam the door shut  
they just keep coming & going  
with the same rueful smile  
they look up at me & always say:  
"Don't get old."  
they don't offer much hope  
for serenity  
in this country  
life just gets harder  
as one ages

the denial factor

you could see it operating  
when Reagan ruled  
a face full of wrinkles  
but no gray hair  
the problem goes deeper  
failure is seldom acknowledged  
there's lots of talk  
about taking responsibility  
for one's actions  
but it doesn't really happen  
here's a collective example:  
80 million Germans under Hitler